

## REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14, 15, and 17-30 are pending following entry of the amendments herein. The applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 18-30 are allowed. The office action also identifies that claims 6-9, 13-15 and 17 are allowable but objected to for dependence on a rejected claim. The claims have been amended. Claims 6, 12, 13 and 16 are canceled. No new matter has been added.

## ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10-12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on U.S. Pat. No. 4,657,059 (Clauss) and U.S. Pat. No. 4,615,371 (Clauss). Claim 1 recites a motorized shade system comprising a plurality of roller tubes each having opposite end portions, a drive system including a motor and a clutch mechanism including first and second clutch members for each pair of adjacently located tube end portions. The clutch members are supported for relative movement with respect to each other between a closed clutch position for torque transfer and an opened clutch position for relative movement between the associated tube end portions. Claim 1, as amended, further recites that the clutch mechanism includes an elongated pull rod engaging the second clutch member to provide for movement of the second clutch member from a location that is remote with respect to the second clutch member.

Clauss '059 discloses a shading system including a plurality of awnings (1) each including a winding shaft (2; Fig. 2) for winding a canvas (4). The shading system includes wall fixtures (8) between adjacent shafts (2). As acknowledged by the Examiner, Clauss '059 does not disclose that the shading system includes a clutch mechanism having closed and opened positions for respectively providing for simultaneous rotation of adjacent shafts and relative rotation between the shafts.

Clauss '371 discloses a resilient coupling (20; Figs. 13 and 14) for a winding shaft (3) of an awning. The resilient coupling includes friction discs (104, 105) and a spring washer (108) seated on a hub (35). As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation from claim 6, which was identified in the office action as allowable but objected to, that the clutch mechanism includes an elongated pull rod engaging the second clutch member of

the clutch mechanism for moving the second clutch member with respect to the first clutch member from a location that is remote with respect to the second clutch member. This feature is not suggested in the cited prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Clauss '059 and Clauss '371. Each of claims 3, 5 and 10 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, is not obvious from Clauss '059 and Clauss '371 for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 11 recites a motorized shade system comprising a plurality of elongated roller tubes each having opposite end portions, a drive system including a motor, a pair of support assemblies for each pair of tube end portions, and a clutch mechanism for each pair of tube end portions. Each of the support assemblies includes a tube-end fitting having inner and outer portions rotatable with respect to each other. The motorized shade system of claim 11, as amended, also includes first and second mounting plates for each tube-end fitting.

Claim 11 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 13 and all the limitations of claim 12 from which claim 13 depends. As discussed above, the office action identifies claim 13 as allowable but objected to for depending from a rejected claim. Claim 11, as amended, therefore, should be allowed.

Each of claims 12 and 16 depends from claim 11 and, therefore, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 11.

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 10-12, and 16 based on Clauss '059 and Clauss '371 be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Clauss '059 and Clauss '371, discussed above, and U.S. Pat. No. 4,838,333 (Mottura). Each of claims 2 and 4 depends from claim 1. Claim 2 recites that the first and second clutch members each define teeth adapted for meshing engagement. Claim 4 recites that the first and second clutch members comprise first and second halves of a face gear each defining a plurality of teeth.

As discussed above, Clauss '059 and Clauss '371 do not suggest a clutch mechanism having first and second members and an elongated pull rod engaging the second clutch member of the clutch mechanism for moving the second clutch member with respect to the first clutch member from a location that is remote with respect to the second clutch member.

The necessary teaching of the elongated pull rod, lacking in Clauss '059 and Clauss '371, is not provided by Mottura. Mottura is cited by the Examiner solely for the purpose of showing a clutch device having teeth.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 2 and 4 are not rendered obvious based on Clauss '059, Clauss '371 and Mottura.

The applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2 and 4 based on Clauss '059, Clauss '371 and Mottura be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance of claims 1-5, 7-11, 14, 15, and 17-30 is earnestly solicited.

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